



Thursday, November 20, 2003

Former 'Iron Soldier' chosen as new SMA

HEIDELBERG, Germany - The V Corps and Combined Joint Task Force 7 command sergeant major, Command Sgt. Major Kenneth O. Preston, has been selected to become the senior enlisted person in the Army.

Preston, who has 25 years of service under his belt, will succeed Sergeant Major of the Army Jack L. Tilley in a ceremony at the Pentagon Jan. 15, 2004. Tilley will retire after more than 35 years of Army service.

Preston has been V Corps command sergeant major since April 2001 and also is currently the CJTF-7 command sergeant major in Baghdad, Iraq.

He entered the United States Army June 30, 1975, and attended Basic Training and Armor Advanced Individual Training at Fort Knox, Ky.

Preston's first duty assignment was Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas. There he served in all tank crew positions in the Headquarters Tank Section and served as a Scout in the Scout platoon.

His follow-on assignment in March 1978 was to B Company, 1st Battalion, 33rd Armor, 3rd Armored Division, Gelnhausen, Germany. He served as a tank gunner, tank commander, and company master gunner during the tour of duty.

The Armor School at Fort Knox selected Preston in April 1981 to serve as a tank gunnery and master gunner instructor with the Weapons Department, U.S. Army Armor School, Fort Knox. Preston served as one of the first M1-trained instructors and master gunners in the Army.

In October 1983, the Weapons Department selected Preston to serve as an exchange instructor with the Royal Armored Corps Gunnery School, Lulworth Camp, England. During this two-year assignment, he instructed seven different vehicle weapon systems which included the Challenger, Chieftain, Scorpion, Scimitar, Fox, Striker, and the FV 438. Preston finished his tour with the Weapons Department as a project officer for fielding the M1A1 tank.

He served as a tank platoon sergeant with C Company, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry and then C Company, 2nd Battalion, 10th Cavalry. While assigned to the 12th Cavalry, he served as the First Sergeant for Headquarters Company for 12 months.

In July 1989, he joined Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment in Fulda, Germany. Preston served as the Regimental

Master Gunner and two years as the first sergeant of Anvil Troop, which deployed to Kuwait for Operations Positive Force and Provide Comfort.

He returned to Fort Knox in July 1992 to serve as Chief of the Master Gunner Branch. In March 1993, Preston moved to the NCO Academy at Fort Knox as the First Sergeant for the Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course. Following consolidation of the 19-series BNCOC from U.S. Army Europe to Fort Knox, Preston served as the Assistant Commandant of the NCO Academy.

He attended Class 46, the first nine-month course of the US Army Sergeants Major Academy at Fort Bliss, Texas in August 1995. Following graduation from the academy, Preston joined the 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, Fort Hood, Texas during an emergency deployment to Kuwait to serve as the unit's battalion Command Sergeant Major.

In August 1998, Preston was selected to serve as the 3rd ("Grey Wolf") Brigade command sergeant major of the 1st Cavalry Division. The heavy infantry brigade served to train and prepare the division for a yearlong deployment in Bosnia.

He moved to Germany in December 1999 to serve as the division command sergeant major for the First Armored Division in Bad Kreuznach, Germany. During this period the division had responsibility for both the KFOR 2A and 2B rotations in Kosovo.



Brig. Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, 1 AD commanding general, greets a guest during a dinner held to celebrate the end of a day's Ramadan fasting. Key community leaders from throughout Baghdad were invited to join the general and members of the division's leadership for the Iftar meal. Photo by Spc. Shauna McRoberts, 1 AD PAO.

News

Bush Defends Iraq War in Visit to Britain

LONDON (AP) - Welcomed to Britain with royal pageantry and a smattering of anti-war protesters, President Bush on Wednesday defended the war in Iraq, saying military might must at times be used to confront the continuing, global danger of terrorism.

"In some cases, the measured use of force is all that protects us from a chaotic world ruled by force," Bush told academics gathered at Banqueting House.

Report: Jackson Accused of Molestation

LOS OLIVOS, Calif. (AP) - A raid on Michael Jackson's Neverland Ranch was linked to a child molestation allegation against the pop superstar, a Jackson family attorney said Wednesday.

"We know that a search warrant was executed at Neverland Ranch early yesterday morning and that the warrant stated that it was in response to a complaint of a male child, 12 years old, who claims that there was sexual molestation that took place at Neverland Ranch," attorney Brian Oxman, who said he had represented the Jackson family for 14 years, told CBS' "The Early Show."

House Approves Far-Reaching Energy Bill

WASHINGTON (AP) - The House approved a far-reaching energy bill Tuesday that would provide billions of dollars in tax incentives for oil, gas and coal producers and give a boost to corn farmers by requiring a doubling of ethanol use in gasoline. It also would impose federal reliability rules on operators of high-voltage power lines for the first time, to reduce the likelihood of another cascading blackout like the one last summer.

Security Council Affirms Mideast Road Map

UNITED NATIONS (AP) - The U.N. Security Council unanimously adopted a resolution Wednesday endorsing the road map to a permanent two-state solution to the Israel-Palestinian conflict. The peace plan was drafted by Russia, the U.S., the U.N. and the European Union aims to end more than two years of Mideast violence and establish a Palestinian state by 2005.

Safety Tip of the Day

Improperly Installed Wiring Can Cause Electrical Shock and is a Fire Hazard.

- *Don't overload power strips.*
- *Electrical wiring must be completed by qualified personnel.*
- *Do not use hot plates in sleeping areas.*
- *Turn off or unplug electrical items when not in use.*
- *Keep electrical wires and plugs away from water.*
- *Move combustible items away from electrical appliances, and wiring.*

Oddly Enough

New whale species found in museum

(NewScientist.com news service) A new species of baleen whale has been discovered. The stunning find, made after researchers studied the body shape and genetics of a few leviathan skeletons gathering dust for the last 25 years in a Japanese museum, brings the total number of known species in the main genus of baleen whale to eight.

Coming just a day after the World Conservation Union released its latest list of the world's endangered species, it also reinforces just how little scientists still know about much of the world's fauna, including its greatest mammals.

Marine biologists had puzzled over the identity of the new whale species since eight specimens were caught by Japanese research whalers in the 1970s. Another was found in 1998. But the mystery now appears to be solved, by researchers led by Shiro Wada at the Japanese National Research Institute of Fisheries Science in Yokohama.

The new whale species differs from known fin and sei whales in the shape of their skull and in the comb-like baleen plates they use to filter food from the water, reports Wada's team.

The whales' mitochondrial DNA differs in consistent ways from that of related species, confirming that they belong in a separate, new species called *Balaenoptera omurai*.

The DNA evidence also backs taxonomists who have argued that another related species, Eden's whale, is really two separate species, Eden's whale, *B. edeni*, and Bryde's whale, *B. brydei*. So at a stroke, Wada's team boosted the number of *Balaenoptera* species from six to eight.

Similar events have occurred before. Toothed whale species have been redefined several times in the past few decades, and researchers now suspect there may be as many as seven species of orca, or killer whale, and possibly even more species of bottlenose dolphins.

Journal reference: *Nature* (vol 426, p 278)

Chaplain's thought for the day

The Eagle and the Wolf

There is a great battle that rages inside me. One side is the soaring eagle. Everything the eagle stands for is good and true and beautiful, and it soars above the clouds. Even though it dips down into the valleys, it lays its eggs on the mountaintops.

The other side of me is the howling wolf. And that raging, howling wolf represents the worst that's in me. He eats upon my downfalls and justifies himself by his presence in the pack.

Who wins this great battle?

The one I feed.

unknown